

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-4 and 6-16 remain pending in the instant application. At the outset, Applicant gratefully acknowledges the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 4, 6-9, 12 and 14. Applicant also gratefully acknowledges the withdrawal of all rejections made in the Office Action mailed November 15, 2007. Favorable reconsideration of the instant application is kindly requested.

Claim Objections

Claims 4, 6-9, 12 and 14 are indicated as reciting allowable subject matter, but are objected to as depending upon a rejected base claim. As amended above, claims 4, 6 and 14 are amended above into independent form, including the features of their underlying independent base claims, and any intervening claims. Claims 7-9 and 12 each depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 6, made independent by the above amendments. The scope of these claims is not altered in any way by the amendments, and no new matter has been added. Applicant respectfully submits that claims 4, 6-9, 12 and 14 are allowable without further objection, and kindly requests favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the claim objections.

Claims 15-16 are objected to for a spurious “a” before the word “rotary” in each claim. Claims 15 and 16 are amended above as prescribed by the Office Action. This amendment is editorial in nature only, does not alter the scope of the claim, and adds no new matter. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections is kindly requested.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-3, 5, 10-11, 13 and 15-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,638,891 to Fukase, *et al.* (“Fukase”). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

Independent claim 1 is amended above to recite

A strand-guiding roll for supporting and guiding cast metal strands in a continuous casting installation, the roll comprising:
a central rotatable shaft;
at least one roll shell supported on and fixed against rotation on the shaft;
support rings on the shaft supporting the roll shell;
the shaft, the roll shell and the support rings being shaped

to define an annular space which is axially delimited by the support rings and is formed between the shaft and the roll shell; connections to the annular space for the space to be a coolant conduit via the connections; ~~and~~ connections to the annular space for the space to be a coolant conduit via the connections; and a rotation-preventing device passing through the annular space and shaped to secure the roll shell directly against rotation with respect to the shaft.

(markup per 37 C.F.R. § 1.121)

By the above amendment, Claim 1 incorporates the subject matter previously recited in dependent claim 5, and also that the rotation-preventing device secures the roll shell directly against rotation with respect to the shaft. No new matter has been added by this amendment. Claim 5 is cancelled without disclaimer or prejudice to its subsequent reintroduction in this or a continuing application. Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is patentably distinguished over Fukase.

A casting roll as described by Fukase may be used in a twin roll caster or in single roll caster to form a strand from molten metal. Thus, this type of casting roll is a mold with rotating mold walls. This is described in more detail in the Fukase patent on Col. 1, lines 4-52. In contrast to Fukase, instant claim 1 recites a strand-guiding roll for supporting and guiding a cast metal strand in a continuous casting installation. Such strand-guiding rolls are positioned below the mold in an area where the strand is formed in its structural dimensions. Therefore, the two types of rolls are principally different in their application.

Moreover, Fukase discloses a roll sleeve 14 is supported by a main annular member 17 on the central shaft 12. A ring member 18 is rigidly connected with the main annular member 17 by fastening screw 19. Fukase teaches to fix the roll sleeve 14 against rotation by the ring member 18. "Some rims of the channels 30 may be raised to engage with the slots in the interior surface of sleeve 14 so as to key the end walls to the sleeve." (Col. 3, lines 26-28) This can be also seen in Fig. 1. On the other hand, claim 1 as amended recites the roll shell being secured against rotation directly on the central rotatable shaft. The advantage of this solution is to separate the support function which shall be carried by the support ring and the rotation-preventing function which shall be carried by the rotation-preventing mean. In a more preferred embodiment disclosed in the instant specification and recited in a dependent claim, the rotation-preventing device comprises a feather key. The functional separation also increases the life of

the roll because the way in which the roll shell is supported on the shaft is to be able to better match the stresses which occur.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 is patentable distinguished over Fukase. Claims 2-3, 10-11, 13 and 15-16 each depend, either directly or indirectly from independent claim 1. These dependent claims are each separately patentable, but in the interest of brevity they are offered as patentable for at least the same reasons as their underlying independent base claim, the features of which are incorporated by reference. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection has been obviated, and kindly requests favorable reconsideration and withdrawal.

Conclusion

In light of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that all claims are patentable, and kindly solicits an early and favorable Notice of Allowability.

THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS BEING
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Respectfully submitted,



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